



Padre Island National Seashore SandDollar



Friday, June 25, 2004

Superintendent

Colin's schedule:

- Monday, 6/28 – Travel to Santa Fe, NM
- Tuesday, 6/29 – Oil & Gas Workshop, Santa Fe, NM
- Wed., 6/30 – Oil & Gas Workshop, Santa Fe, NM
- Thurs., 7/01 – Travel to Corpus Christi, TX
- Friday, 7/02 – Will be in Park in the afternoon

Safety Notes--

Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.

Make it a safe day.

Employees Association News -

Administration

We have received the cert for the Dispatcher position. We have received about 22 applications.

Jeanie has some coupons for \$6 off a one-day admission at Sea World and coupons for "two days for the price of one" They will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The "two days for the price of one" works this way: buy one ticket, and then get a free ticket for another day.

FEGLI Open Season Begins in September

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) will be from September 1 through September 30, 2004. The program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new federal employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverage available are not changing. During the open season, federal and postal employees will be able to enroll in the program or increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

Changes Are Coming to the TSP Loan Program

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has announced that effective July 1, 2004; three changes will be made to the TSP loan program. They are: (1) A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan; (2) Two general purpose loans at the same time will no longer be permitted (however, one can have both a general purpose and a residential loan); and (3) Upon paying off a TSP loan, the TSP participant will not be eligible to apply for another loan of the same type for 60 days.

PAIS-E-7, Park Ranger (Protection), GS-0025-5/7/9, merit promotion closed on June 21.

Park Ranger (Protection) will be open June 17-30 and will be open to all sources (all qualified). This announcement is for Park Ranger (Protection) at the GS-5 and GS-7 levels only with promotion potential to the GS-9. Applications must be sent to the address in the announcement posted on the HQ bulletin board and at www.usajobs.opm.gov

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

TEL Training

Starting July 1st, trainings will be closing 5 business days before the event.

The TEL training registration has changed. For all future classes, you must notify Jeanie which course you want to take, she will have to

register the site, then the employee will have to go to <http://mylearning.nps.gov> to register themselves for the class. My Learning Manager will also have all other service wide training listed and the employee will sign up for classes/training. Once an employee registers for a class an email will automatically be sent to their supervisor for approval.

The trailer will be used for TEL training on July 8, 14, 15.

Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/28/2004	Monday	1:00-4:00
Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/29/2004	Tuesday	1:00-4:00
Gateway Communities: Keys to Success	07/08/2004	Thursday	12:30-3:30
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 1): Tools for Effective Partnering	07/14/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	07/15/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	07/19/2004	Monday	1:30-3:30
Resolving Performance Issues	08/10/2004	Tuesday	2:00-2:00
Dealing with Misconduct	08/10/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Retirement Planning for New Employees	08/26/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
Communication: The Key to Performance Management	09/09/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
From Hugger to Harasser: The True Story Behind Sexual Harassment	09/09/2004	Thursday	10:00-12:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	09/13/2004	Monday	2:00-4:00
Position Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know	09/21/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
Managing Performance	09/21/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Administrative Grievances: What You Do Not Know Could Hurt You	09/23/2004	Thursday	2:00 -4:30
IDP Interpretive Media Development (Module 311)	09/28/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00

One new course on June 30th - Performance Management Counseling. This 1 hour course is being offered by the Army National Guard, thus, you will not dial in using the Harvard Elite black box and you will not be using your push to talk mics. This course will count as 1 hour towards the supervisory training requirement.

Facility Management

Please be patient with the contractors installing the sprinkler system in the Headquarters building. There will be some necessary inconvenience related to noise, fumes from soldering pipes, and debris. Every effort will be made to minimize the impact on working operations. The contractors are working as quickly as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Facility Management has formulated a new FMSS work request form. It is more streamlined than the previous form and will incorporate both maintenance and vehicle work requests. A copy of the new form has already been sent to all employees through LotusNotes and should be used immediately. Requesters will fill out the top part of the form and personnel assigned to the request will fill out the bottom part. We think it is a much clearer and less confusing form than has been used in the past. Thank you for your cooperation in using this new form.

52 new hand-held Motorola radios were programmed recently and will replace all current hand-held radios in the immediate future. New specifications are being developed for the replacement of the current tower and repeater system.

Interpretation

Protection

This week the park radio team met with Regional Radio Coordinator Dale Sorrells. Work outputs included programming the new Motorola radios, writing specs for the replacement tower at HQ, and preliminary analysis and system design for future radio system upgrades to occur this fall. New hand held Motorola radios are ready for issue. The radios have been programmed with a similar analog program with a few frequency changes. Please bring your old radio and charger to Randy for swapping out.

On the evening of Tuesday, June, 22 we had two wildland fires ignited by lightning. The Malaquite Fire west of the Visitor Center was .1 acre and the Dune Fire at MM2.5 grew to 26 acres. Both fires were extinguished with the rain that accompanied the thunder showers.

Related to the lightning fires mentioned above everyone should be alert to the danger of lightning while we work in the park. Lightning kills an average of 67 people per year which is more than the average of 65 deaths per year caused by tornados. During a thunderstorm, each flash of cloud-to-ground lightning is a potential killer. Lightning can

strike as far away as 10 miles from the rain of a thunderstorm. For those in the park caught out in a lighting storm consider the following actions:

- Turn off your radio
- Stay in your vehicle
- Return to HQs or the turtle cabin for shelter
- Get off your ATV or boat and wait until the thunderstorm pass passed to resume your patrol

If a person is struck by lighting medical care may be needed immediately to save the person's life. However with proper treatment, including CPR if necessary, the good news is that most victims survive a lighting strike.

Continue to be on alert for the problem coyote at the campground. Thanks to campground hosts Peter and Felicia for their efforts to monitor and help manage the problem coyote.

Luis Gonzales and Randy L. visited several mobile home manufactures to consider as temporary housing until a new permanent house can be built at Malaquite, unfortunately, this option doesn't look viable.

Resources Management

Personnel:

- Darrell and Arlene will be attending an Oil and Gas Conference in Sante Fe with Colin on June 28-July 1. Darrell will be back in the office July. Arlene will be back July 12.

Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

RECORD BREAKING RIDLEY YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

So far this year (through June 23), 40 Kemp's ridley nests have been found on the Texas coast. This beats the previous record of 38 nests, set in 2002. What an absolutely amazing accomplishment to have found this many nests in one year. Only a decade ago we would have been lucky to document one nest within an entire year.

Thank you to the many people that have helped make this work so successful over the years. We have a lot to be proud of.

The tie breaking nest was found by volunteer Roxanne Valentine, who commutes here from San Antonio to participate in our project. Roxanne found the Kemp's ridley after she laid eggs on Monday June 21 at the 11 mile marker. The next day, turtle patroller Luis Diaz found a nester at the 28 mile marker. Neither of these turtles had been head-started. The female that nested on Monday had also nested here on May 22 (at the 7 mile marker), but we had not previously recorded the one that Luis found.

As during previous years, most of the Kemp's ridley nests found in the U.S. have been located at the park. Twenty-two of the 40 nests were discovered here and three of the 40 were found within our patrol route on North Padre Island north of the northern park boundary.

Two loggerhead nests have also been found on the Texas coast so far this year. Eggs from all sea turtle nests except those found on South Padre Island and Boca Chica Beach are transferred to our incubation facility at Padre Island National Seashore for protected care. The eggs from South Padre and Boca Chica are transferred to a corral (screen enclosed area) on South Padre Island.

Nest 6, 7, and 8 have been released - Hatching and releases continue to go extremely well this year. Of the 105 eggs in nest 6, 101 hatched and these active hatchlings were released during the morning on Monday June 21. All of the 117 eggs in nest 7 hatched; 112 of these hatchlings were released during the morning on Saturday June 19 and remaining five on June 21. A total of about 300 people attended the two public releases for these two nests. The hatchlings in nest 8 went into their frenzy early in the morning on June 23, a bit sooner than I had expected. A small group of staff and volunteers guarded the 107 active hatchlings during their very quick scamper down the beach and into the sea. One later hatching baby turtle was released the next day, for a total of 108 hatchlings released from the 112 eggs in this nest.

Nests 10 and 11 are due to be released sometime(s) between about June 27 and July 2. The hatchlings from the clutches held in our

incubation facility will be released when they are physically ready and enter their infantile frenzy, typically sometime during a span of a few days that Donna predicts. The release date predictions for the nests currently held in the incubation facility are listed in the table below. This table will also be posted on the Padre Island National Seashore website (www.nps.gov/pais/), under the heading of upcoming events. As during past years, the staff and public will be invited to attend as many of our hatchling releases as possible. Public releases are announced to begin at 6:30 am, to allow enough time for the Interpretation Division staff to give a brief program to the public before we place the hatchlings on the beach between 6:45 am and 7:00 am. Please note that we are unable to invite people to watch those releases that occur when the turtles enter their frenzy at unpredictable times, during the night, or during weather conditions that could be unsafe for the turtles or people (i.e., thunderstorms, very high tides, etc.). So, to increase the chance of seeing a release, we advise interested individuals traveling from out of town to try to attend when hatchlings from more than one nest are predicted to be released. As we near the predicted release dates for each clutch, Donna will update information about the releases on the Hatchling Hotline (telephone 361-949-7163). As during previous years, the Hatchling Hotline will be the best source of the most current information on the next release.

**PREDICTED HATCHLING RELEASE DATES FOR NESTS BEING HELD AT
THE
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INCUBATION FACILITY**

Nest # (Species)	Date Found	Hatchlings will Likely be Released Sometime Between these Dates
1 (Kemp's ridley)	April 5	Released May 24-28
2 (Kemp's ridley)	April 17	Released June 6
5 (Kemp's ridley)	April 26	Released June 14
6, 7 (Kemp's ridley)	May 1	Released June 19-21
8 (Kemp's ridley)	May 2	Released June 23-24
10, 11 (Kemp's ridley)	May 11	June 27-July 2
14 (Kemp's ridley)	May 14	June 30-July 5
15, 16 (Kemp's ridley)	May 17	July 3-8
18 (Kemp's ridley)	May 21	July 7-12
19-24 (Kemp's ridley)	May 22	July 8-13
25 (Kemp's ridley)	May 23	July 9-14

27 (Kemp's ridley)	May 30	July 16-21
28-29 (Kemp's ridley)	June 3	July 20-25
30-34 (Kemp's ridley)	June 5	July 22-27
35 (Kemp's ridley)	June 6	July 23-28
36 (Kemp's ridley)	June 8	July 25-30
38 (Loggerhead)	June 13	August 1-6
40 (Kemp's ridley)	June 16	August 2-7
41 (Kemp's ridley)	June 21	August 7-12
42 (Kemp's ridley)	June 22	August 8-13

Note that nests 3, 4, 9, 12, 13, 17, 26, 37, and 39 are being held in a corral on South Padre Island, Texas

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